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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/348,502	07/07/1999	IOANA DONESCU	1807.0924	5329

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EXAMINER

BHATNAGAR, ANAND P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2623	

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/348,502	DONESCU, IOANA
Examiner	Art Unit	
Anand Bhatnagar	2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>5-7</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Regarding claims 1,7,14, and 19: the phrase "such as" renders the claims indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d). Examiner will address these claims as best understood.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3,6-9,12,13, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Manjunath et al. (U.S. patent 6,332,030).

Regarding claims 1 and 7: Method of inserting a supplementary information item, such as a secret watermark, in digital data (col. 1 lines 36-40), characterized in that it includes the following steps:

- multi-resolution spectral breakdown of the digital data (fig. 1, fig. 6, col. 6 lines 28-34 and 51-56, where the image is broken down into frequency bands) ;
- extraction of the components of lowest frequency (col. 6 lines 25-34 and 51-56);
- choice of a subset of the components of lowest frequency (col. 18 lines 48-60, col. 20 lines 59-67, and col. 21 lines 1-5, where only a limited number of coefficients are chosen in the frequency band or number of coefficients are limited by zeroing some of the coefficients in the bands);
- modulation of the components of said subset in order to insert the supplementary information (col. 7 lines 1-18 and 29-31, where the coefficients are scaled by alpha) ; and
- reverse multi-resolution spectral recomposition of the watermarked digital data (col. 7 lines 22-25, where the signal is combined to give a watermarked image).

Regarding claims 2 and 8: Manjunath et al. further discloses a insertion method characterized in that the multi-level spectral breakdown level is predetermined so that the number (n) of components with the lowest frequency is between 8 x 8 and 32 x 32 (fig. 1 and col. 15 lines 62-65).

Regarding claims 3 and 9: Manjunath et al. further discloses an insertion method characterized in that, at the spectral breakdown step, the spectral breakdown is performed by a discrete wavelet transformation and, at the extraction step, the components of the approximation sub-band are chosen (fig.

6, col. 6 lines 35-44, col. 18 lines 48-60, and col. 20 lines 59-67, where only a limited number of coefficients are chosen in the frequency band or number of coefficients are limited by zeroing some of the coefficients in the bands).

Regarding claims 6 and 12: Manjunath et al. further discloses an insertion method characterized in that, at the choosing step, the subset of components is chosen according to a pseudo-random function initialized by a digital signal representing a confidential key associated with the supplementary information to be inserted (col. 21 lines 30-50, where an encryption key is used to pseudo randomly change the coefficients to embed).

Regarding claim 13. Insertion device characterized in that the means of spectral breakdown, extraction, choosing, modulation and spectral recomposition are incorporated in:

- a microprocessor ;
- a read-only memory containing a program for inserting a supplementary information item; and
- a random access memory containing registers adapted to record variables modified during the running of the program.

(col. 3 lines 14-30 and col. 8 lines 1-15; It is inherent that the system of Manjunath et al. is composed of a computer which contains a CPU, RAM, and ROM memories, this system receives an image from a host "computer" and computations are performed on the image to break it down embed data and reform the image with data embedded).

Regarding claim 25: Manjunath et al. discloses a digital signal processing apparatus, characterized in that it has an insertion device (col. 6 lines 25-35 and 45-50).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manjunath et al. (U.S. patent 6,332,030) in view of Cooklev (U.S. patent 6,359,998).

Regarding claims 4 and 10: Insertion method characterized in that, at the spectral breakdown step, the digital data are broken down iteratively into an approximation version corresponding to a lowpass filtering and a sub-sampling of the digital data or of a previous approximation version, and into a detail version corresponding to the subtraction of the approximation version from the digital data or from said previous approximation version, and, at the extraction step, the components of the approximation version are chosen.

Manjunath et al. discloses a watermarking system where the original image is broken down into frequencies using a discrete wavelet transform and a

watermark is embedded in the low frequencies. Manjunath et al. does not teach to perform a lowpass filtering and subsampling of the image data. Cooklev teaches to perform a low pass filtering and subsampling on an image (Cooklev; col. 11 lines 14-20) for data to be embedded. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art for one to combine the teaching of Cooklev to that of Manjunath et al. because they are analogous in embedding data into an image. One in the art would have been motivated to incorporate the low passfiltering and subsampling of Cooklev into the watermarking device of Manjunath et al. giving a watermarking system which will make it less prone to being attacked by limiting the frequencies that are used from the whole spectrum of frequencies from the image, which makes it difficult to find where the hidden data is embedded (col. 6 lines 4-8).

3. Claims 25,27, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manjunath et al. (U.S. patent 6,332,030) in view of Zeng (U.S. patent 6,373,974).

Regarding claims 27,29, and 31: Digital photographic apparatus, digital camera, and/or database management system characterized in that it has an insertion device.

Manjunath et al. discloses a watermarking system where the original image is broken down into frequencies using a discrete wavelet transform and a watermark is embedded in the low frequencies. Manjunath et al. does not teach

to have this low frequency watermarking/insertion device of a database or digital camera “digital photographic apparatus” system. Zeng teaches to have a watermarking system in a digital camera “digital photographic apparatus” as well as a database management (Zeng; col. 11 lines 15-21). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teaching of Zeng to that of Manjunath et al. because they are analogous in watermarking. One in the art would have been motivated to incorporate the watermarking system of Manjunath et al. into a digital camera and database management system as thought by Zeng in order to place an authentication mark on the work/product produced for identification.

4. Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manjunath et al. (U.S. patent 6,332,030) in view of Barton (U.S. patent 6,163,842).

Regarding claim 33: Computer, characterized in that it has an insertion device.

Manjunath et al. discloses a watermarking system where the original image is broken down into frequencies using a discrete wavelet transform and a watermark is embedded in the low frequencies. Manjunath et al. does not teach to have this low frequency watermarking/insertion device on a computer system. Barton teaches to have a watermarking system in a computer (Barton; col. 9 lines 40-50). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the

teaching of Barton to that of Manjunath et al. because they are analogous in watermarking. One in the art would have been motivated to incorporate the watermarking system of Manjunath et al. into a computer system as taught by Barton in order to place an authentication mark on the work/product produced for identification.

5. Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manjunath et al. (U.S. patent 6,332,030) in view of Uchida (U.S. patent 6,370,258).

Regarding claim 35: Scanner, characterized in that it has an insertion device.

Manjunath et al. discloses a watermarking system where the original image is broken down into frequencies using a discrete wavelet transform and a watermark is embedded in the low frequencies. Manjunath et al. does not teach to have this low frequency watermarking/insertion device in a scanner system. Uchida teaches to have a watermarking system in a scanner system (Uchida; col.4 lines 55-65). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teaching of Uchida to that of Manjunath et al. because they are analogous in watermarking. One in the art would have been motivated to incorporate the watermarking system of Manjunath et al. into a scanner system as taught by Uchida in order to place an authentication mark on the work/product produced for identification.

6. Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manjunath et al. (U.S. patent 6,332,030) in view of Chen et al. (U.S. patent 6,314,192).

Regarding claim 37: Medical imaging apparatus, and notably an X-ray radiography apparatus, characterized in that it has an insertion device.

Manjunath et al. discloses a watermarking system where the original image is broken down into frequencies using a discrete wavelet transform and a watermark is embedded in the low frequencies. Manjunath et al. does not teach to have this low frequency watermarking/insertion device in a medical apparatus system. Chen et al. teaches to have a watermarking system in a medical apparatus (Chen et al.; col. 8 lines 43-50). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teaching of Chen et al. to that of Manjunath et al. because they are analogous in watermarking. One in the art would have been motivated to incorporate the watermarking system of Manjunath et al. into the medical apparatus system as thought by Chen et al. in order to place an authentication mark on the work/product produced for identification.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 5,11,14-24,26,28,30,32,34,36, and 38 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in

independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Cox et al. (U.S. patent 5,915,027) for watermarking with image spectral decomposition.

Tewfik et al. (U.S. patent 6,226,387) for low and high frequency data embedding.

Bantum (U.S. patent 6,466,209) for watermarking a database.

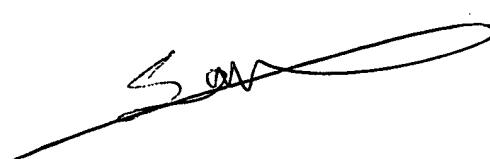
9. Any inquiry into this communication should be directed to Anand Bhatnagar whose telephone number is 703-306-5914, whose supervisor is Amelia Au whose number is 703-308-6604, group receptionist is 703-305-4700, and group fax is 703-872-9314.



Anand Bhatnagar

Art Unit 2623

December 2, 2002



SAMIR AHMED
PRIMARY EXAMINER